

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /049 W

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P 080745Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7144

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, MGEN, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION VA HOMPITALIZATION

REF: STATE 166912

1. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER INCORPORATING FOLLOWING
INTO AMB MCCLOSKEY'S LETTER TO SENATOR PROXMIRE. UNDER
TERMS OF PUBLIC LAW 93-82, FIXED MEDICAL RELATED EXPENSES
CONSUMED APPROX \$200,000 OF THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION.
ASSUMING THESE FIXED EXPENSES CONTINUE UNDER THE PROPOSED
\$500,000 APPROPRIATION, REMAINING \$300,000 WOULD ONLY
SUPPORT AVERAGE DAILY PATIENT LOAD (ADPL) OF 90 RATHER
THAN CURREND ADPL OF 400, OF WHICH 45 PERCENT TB. IT WOULD MEAN
THAT UNDER THE GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM, THE US WOULD SUPPORT ONLY
10 PERCENT OF VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PATIENT LOAD. CURRENTLY,
WE SUPPORT 50 PERCENT. USG WOULD LOSE PRESENT LEVERAGE
IT HAS IN ENSURING MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE STANDARDS AT
VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. BEGIN FYI: PAST EXPERIENCE
INDICATES THAT GOP WOULD NOT ABSORB ADDITIONAL COST OF
RUNNING HOSPITAL. CONSEQUENTLY, HOSPITAL STANDARDS
LIKELY TO DECLINE APPRECIABLY. THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS
OF CERTAIN INADEQUACIES AT HOSPITAL. USVA HAS BEEN ABLE
TO CORRECT THESE BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE HOSPITAL.
END FYI. DECLINING STANDARDS OF CARE AT VETERANS
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT NOT ONLY COMMON-
WEALTH VETERANS BUT APPROX 100 US VETERANS WHO CURRENTLY
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RECEIVE CARE AT THIS HOSPITAL. SHOULD THE MEDICAL CARE

STANDARDS AT HOSPITAL DECREASE SIGNIFICANTLY AS WOULD BE CASE IF APPROPRIATION IS ONLY \$500,000, USG MAY BE COMPELLED TO TRANSFER US VETERANS FROM VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WHERE WE PAY 70 PESOS A DAY FOR THEIR CARE TO OTHER LOCAL HOSPITALS WHERE DAILY RATE CAN BE 70 DOLLARS (MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER) OR 168 DOLLARS (CLARK AIR BASE). THUS, THE ECONOMY EFFECTED IN THE SENATE VERSION OF BILL MIGHT BE MORE THAN OFFSET BY EXPENSES INCURRED IN TREATING US VETERANS IN OTHER HOSPITALS.

2. IN ADDITION TO PRACTICAL OBJECTION TO CUT, DEPARTMENT MIGHT MAKE FOLLOWING MORE GENERAL POINTS WHICH RELATE BOTH TO CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND SUBSTANCE OF US/GOP RELATIONS. USG TREATMENT OF VETERANS HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIGHLY CHARGED ISSUE FOR FILIPINOS. CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT FILIPINO VETERANS RECEIVE SECOND CLASS TREATMENT VIS A VIS US VETERANS AND THAT US MORE SOLICITOUS OF FORMER ENEMIES THAN ALLIES. PROPOSED HOSPITALIZATION CUT WILL REINFORCE THIS VIEW. GIVEN CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS, PROPOSED CUT COMES AT WORST TIME POSSIBLE. GUIDED PRESS (ESPECIALLY ANTI-US COLUMNISTS LIKE VALENCIA) LIKELY TO USE IT TO DEMONSTRATE USG INGRATITUDE AS WELL AS TO SUGGEST USG WORD CAN NOT BE RELIED UPON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, VETERANS GROUPS, HOSPITALS, APPROPRIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA09882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760263-0089
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760780/aaaacrzs.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 166912
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION VA HOMPITALIZATION
TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, EGEN, EFIN, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006